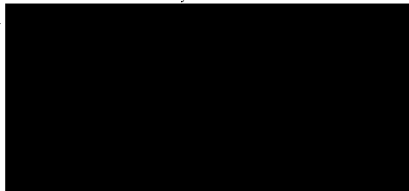


7 October 1953

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In recent conversations with Robert Cutler, Dean Rusk and Arthur Burns, I have been given the general outline of the project you are to direct on the growth of the Soviet economy.

As you are doubtlessly aware this Agency in collaboration with other intelligence offices of the Government has been extensively engaged in similar work. The problem is, however, so important that we welcome with enthusiasm another substantial effort to attack it, and wish to be just as helpful as we can in your endeavors.

It would obviously be unfortunate if you were to expend valuable time and resources in collection and collation of raw data when the work has already been accomplished. On the other hand it is highly important that your approach to the problem be a fresh one and subject to no bias by having in advance our conclusions either as dogma or to shoot at or as findings to be respected as semi-authentic. It would, therefore, seem to us to our mutual advantage for our Chief of Economic Research, [redacted] to confer with you or your designee at an early date in order to make arrangements whereby our unclassified material and as much as possible of our classified material could be made available to your staff. It would also seem appropriate for at least some of your top people on the project to have full access to our reports, but this will undoubtedly involve full security clearances which, unfortunately, require some time. Therefore, if you can supply us with the names of one or more of your key nominees for the project, I shall undertake to initiate the necessary security clearances.

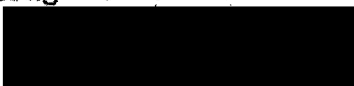
I would like very much to discuss this matter in general terms with you personally either in Washington or New York at your convenience.

Very sincerely,

Robert Ames, Jr.
Deputy Director, Intelligence

DDI/RAJr.:jm
Distribution:
Orig - Addressee

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